

As noted above, each of independent Claims 1 and 29 incorporates the feature of the intermediary transfer member including a first layer, a second layer on the first layer, and a third layer on the second layer, for receiving the toner image from the image bearing means, and is further characterized in that a volume resistivity of the first layer is smaller than that of the third layer and a volume resistivity of the third layer is smaller than that of the second layer. As a result of this combination of features, the durability of intermediary transfer member is improved and image formation without toner scattering or transfer defect is enhanced.

Schlueter, Jr., et al. relates to and features an intermediate member with a volume resistivity of about 10^{11} Ohm.cm. (See, col. 11, lns. 56-59). However, Schlueter, Jr., et al. does not teach or suggest a third layer in which the volume resistivity of the third layer is smaller than that of the second layer.

Applicants understand the Examiner to refer to column 7, lines 60-66 and column 4, lines 18-20 of the reference for the above teaching, where it is stated that the volume resistivity of the top layer of the intermediate member is above 10^{10} Ohm.cm to below 10^{12} Ohm.cm and that the electrical resistivity of the intermediate layer 7 ranges for example from about 10^7 to 10^{11} Ohm.cm. However, this portion of Schlueter, Jr., et al. is understood only to suggest preferable ranges of volume resistivities of the top layer and the intermediate layer. The feature of the present invention is further characterized in that the volume resistivity of the third layer is smaller than that of the second layer, and this feature is neither taught nor suggested by the applied reference.

Applicants have also reviewed the remaining references of record and respectfully submit that none of that art teaches or suggests the invention as recited in Claims 1 and 29.

Independent Claims 46 and 74 are directed to an image forming apparatus with an intermediary transfer member and an intermediary transfer member, respectively. In each case the intermediary transfer member includes a first layer and a second layer for receiving the toner image from the image bearing means, wherein the first layer is integrally coated with the second layer, and wherein the second layer has a buying resistivity smaller than that of the first layer. As a result of this combination of features, the durability of the intermediary transfer member is improved and image formation without toner scattering or transfer defect is enhanced.

Claims 46 and 74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Namba. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Namba feature a device with an intermediate transfer member which comprises a first endless belt having a volume resistivity of not more than 10^{13} Ohm.cm and a second endless belt having a volume resistivity of not less than 10^{13} Ohm.cm, which are overlayed with each other. The intermediate transfer member of Namba purports to be unique in that the first endless belt and the second endless belt are separated from each other during image forming operations. This is in stark contrast of the present invention wherein the first and second layers are integrally coated upon one another. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that Namba neither teaches nor suggest the invention as recited in either of Claims 46 or 74.

The remaining claims in the above application are dependent claims which depend either directly or indirectly from one of the above-discussed independent claims and are

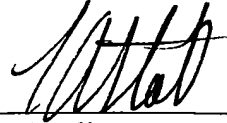
therefore patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to the independent claims. In addition, each recite features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection as it is being presented in an earnest effort to advance prosecution and place the application in condition for allowance. The above amendments are intended solely to more clearly define the invention and not to add any additional limitations. Favorable consideration thereon is respectfully sought.

Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding matters in the above application have been addressed and that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application is respectfully sought.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Stahl', is written over a horizontal line.

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

image bearing means for bearing a toner image;

an intermediary transfer member, wherein the toner image is electrostatically transferred from said image bearing means onto said intermediary transfer member, and then transferred from said intermediary transfer member onto a transfer material;

wherein said intermediary transfer member includes a first layer, a second layer on said first layer, and a third layer on said second layer, for receiving the toner image from said image bearing means, and

wherein a volume resistivity of said first layer is smaller than that of said third layer, and a volume resistivity of said third layer is smaller than that of said second layer.

46. (Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

image bearing means for bearing a toner image;

an intermediary transfer member, wherein the toner image is electrostatically transferred from said image bearing means onto said intermediary transfer member, and then transferred from said intermediary transfer member onto a transfer material,

wherein said intermediary transfer member includes a first layer and a second layer for receiving the toner image from said image bearing means, wherein said first layer is

integrally coated with said second layer, and wherein said second layer has a volume resistivity smaller than that of said first layer.

74. (Amended) An intermediary transfer member onto which a toner image is electrostatically transferred from image bearing means, wherein the toner image on said intermediary transfer member is transferred onto a transfer material, said intermediary transfer member comprising:

a first layer; and

a second layer for receiving the toner image from said image bearing means, wherein said first layer is integrally coated with said second layer, and wherein said second layer has a volume resistivity smaller than that of said first layer.

MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE TITLE:

Please amend the title as follows:

--IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS WITH THREE LAYER
INTERMEDIARY TRANSFER MEMBER--.